**Evolutionary Psychology and Gender Differences in Human Sexual Behavior**

(25 points plus 4 points for responses to other students)

Submit your file in the Drop Box for this module. Describe your thoughts on this issue in the Discussion forum (200 words or more; 5 points) and respond substantively to two other students for points (2 points each = 4 points)

**Learning Outcomes of this Evolutionary Psychology Assignment**

1. Summarize the differences and their origins in human male-female mate preferences as described by evolutionary psychology, and compare with the student’s perspective on these issues.

2. Summarize key points in a peer-reviewed journal article on the topic

3. Apply the above perspectives to explain the behavior illustrated in the video “Openness to casual sex: a study of men vs. women” which is based on multiple peer-reviewed research journal articles.

4. Demonstrate the ability to describe the difference between personal perspectives and academic research perspectives on an emotionally charged, controversial topic.

5. Compose an APA formatted reference for the assigned research journal article

**The Assignment**

Read your textbook sections on "Evolutionary Psychology", and the interaction of Nature and Nurture.

Next, read this article in ProQuest or EBSCO:

"Evolution of Human Mate Choice" by Geary, Vigil, and Bird-Craven in the *Journal of Sex Research*, February 2004, volume 41, issue 1, pp 27-43.

(Suggestion: The fastest way to access it is in the HTML with graphics version. The PDF version uses Adobe Acrobat and is better if you wish to print the article but takes much longer to load on your computer. Be patient if loading the PDF version; it may take one or two minutes with noting happening on your screen if you have an older computer, then suddenly it appears!) You need not read this as though you will be tested on it; just look for the main points describing and explaining gender differences in behavior.

After reading these pages, view the two Psych Portal Video Toolkit video clips: "Openness to Casual Sex: A study of men vs. women" (in Chap. 11 in Psych Portal; You Tube link:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I1BtzLYLog>) and “Evolutionary Psychology & Sex Differences” (in Chap. 4 in Psych Portal; or video on You Tube with Don Symons "Evolutionary Psychology" at: [www.youtube.com/user/thesexualworld](http://www.youtube.com/user/thesexualworld?blend=23&ob=5#p/u/26/RHIQUixjljY) ).

**Your response to this topic**

After reading and viewing the assigned resources above, compose your response to the following questions in your word processor and then paste it into the discussion board message window to avoid the frustration losing your work if something happens to your internet connection while you are working on it.

1. In 200-300 words or so (more is OK, but less will lose points), summarize the gender differences in human mate preferences as described in the “Evolution of Human Mate Choice” article. Describe at least three main differences. (This is the only evidence that you have read the article, so include enough information that I will see clear evidence of your knowledge of it and that you did not “borrow” the information from other students who posted before you.) (10 points)
2. Explain the video clip "Openness to casual sex: A study of men vs. women" from the perspective of evolutionary psychology as described in your textbook & the article. This means you need to demonstrate knowledge of the article’s and the textbook’s explanation of the origin of human male-female differences around casual sex. (100 words; 5 points).
3. Describe and explain the reasons for your reaction to the video when you first watched it. Humor, disgust, anger, envy, wishful fantasies are all ok to share as long as it is in appropriate form for a classroom environment. The reasons for your reaction may have identifiable sources such as nature’s evolutionary influences and/or nurture’s personal experience and values. How has the interaction of nature and nurture influenced your reaction to the video? (i. e. nature’s evolutionary influences and nurture’s cultural norms/morality) (100 words; 3 points)
4. In your view, are there basic differences between men and women around casual sex? If so, where do these differences come from? Are they nature (inborn genetically) or nurture (learned from experience and from societal norms and expectations? Does evolutionary psychology offer excuses for men’s or women’s infidelity? Both our textbook and the article address this issue. Explain your conclusions to demonstrate that you have read and understood both the textbook and the article. Be sure to convey your understanding of the interaction of nature and nurture in shaping our sexual behavior. (200-300 words; 5 points).
5. Compose an APA formatted reference for the *Journal of Sex Research* article (2 points)

6. After submitting your response to the assignment in the Drop Box, Post your thoughts on this topic and the assingment in the Disussion Forum. Respond to at least two other students’ postings with a substantive comment. (2 points each = 4 points). This means that you address some aspect of the student’s ideas or how they compare with yours. You will not earn points for mere agreement or disagreement, or saying “good job”. You may respond to as many students as often as you wish, but you will earn points for only two substantive responses.

**Optional articles if you are interested in this topic.** The first is an interview with a long standing leader and researcher in Evolutionary

1. Psychology, David Buss. The second is a of a Christian perspective on evolutionary psychology that considers science and Christianity to be compatible, not at war with each other over who has the correct description of our origins and nature. You need not read these for this assignment, but if you do, you are welcome to include ideas from them in your response. Be sure to note which article you are referring to by putting the author(s) names and year in parentheses like this (Olsson, 2007)
2. Human Mate Selection in a Many-Splendored Thing. Olsson, K. *Texas Monthly*, June 2007, vol. 35, Issue 6, pp. 138-255 (but only 11 pages of readings; the rest is advertisements. Print in HTML format to get only the 11 pages).
3. The Nature of Human Nature. Berry, R. J.; Jeeves, M.. *Science & Christian Belief,* April 2008, Vol. 20 Issue 1, pp3-47.
4. Romantic Jealousy in Early Adulthood and n Later Life. Shackelford, Todd K, et.al. *Human Nature*, 2004, vol. 15, No. 3, pp283-300.
5. Sex Differences in Subjective Distress to Unfaithfulness: Testing Competing Evolutionary and Violation of Infidelity Expectations Hypotheses. Cramer, Robert E., et. al. Journal of Social Psychology, 2008, vol. 148, No. 4, pp. 389-405.
6. Mating Strategies of Young Women: Role of Physical Attractiveness. Singh, Devendra. Journal of Sex Research, 2004, vol. 41, No. 1, pp. 43-54.
7. This web site describes research on the relative attractiveness of husbands and wives and its impact on their relationship:<http://www.livescience.com/health/080410-couples-beauty.html>